

PARENTAL CONTROL OF A MINOR BY A NON-PARENT

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO POWER OF ATTORNEY,
GUARDIANSHIP, AND ADOPTION

Before signing a court document or getting involved with a court case, it's important to see an attorney to make sure you're doing the right thing. The Self-Help Center has information on finding an attorney.

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Parental control of a child is a serious matter. This is a brief introduction to some of your options. Before starting one of these procedures, you should see an attorney, read the relevant Arizona laws, and/or see the Self-Help Center packets *Power of Attorney Over a Minor Child* or *Filing for Guardianship of a Minor*.

| | POWER OF ATTORNEY | PERMANENT GUARDIANSHIP | ADOPTION |
|--|--|---|---|
| How can I get it? | Parent signs Power of Attorney form in front of notary | You petition court; Parents consent or are incapacitated; If you are not related by blood you must pay to get fingerprinted | You petition court; Parents consent or parental rights are terminated; You pass a social study or are certified by a licensed adoption agency |
| Must I be related to the child? | No | No | No |
| Where can I get forms? | Self-Help Center | Self-Help Center | See an attorney |
| How long does it last? | 6 months; Can be renewed | Can last until child turns 18 | Forever |
| Can it be revoked? | Yes | Yes | No |
| What powers does it give me? | Most parental rights and responsibilities except consent to child's marriage or adoption | Most parental rights and responsibilities; You must report to the court yearly | All parental rights and responsibilities |

Emergency or Temporary Guardianship: To get emergency or temporary orders, you should see an attorney because the court generally will not grant those requests without additional information not addressed in the self-help packets.

Dependency: When a child has been, or is at risk of being, abused or neglected, the court may decide the child is dependent on the state. Dependency proceedings usually are started by Child Protective Services and remove the child from the parents. The parents have an opportunity to follow a case plan to make the home safe. If they succeed, the child may be returned to the parents. If they do not, parental rights may be terminated and the child permanently removed.

If the child is a Native American: Special circumstances may apply to adoption. See an attorney.

If the child is not a United States citizen: Special circumstances may apply to power of attorney, guardianship, or adoption. See an attorney.